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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of this application.

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

This communication is responsive to the amendment of 12-30-03.

The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7 and 8.

The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable as formal drawings.

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

All Some* None of the:

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE FOR SUBMITTING NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS, OR A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION. This three-month period for complying with the REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. _____.

including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings.

Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this notice should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for the Deposit of Biological Material
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claim 6 to an invention non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claim 6 has been cancelled.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 are allowable for the reasons presented by applicant in the amendment filed October 21, 2003. It is noted that applicant's specification discloses on page 3, lines 5-19 that when the filtrate to which the coagulant has been added after pH adjustment is supplied to an evaporator or stripper for heating, the trace amount of ammonium carbonate included therein releases carbonic acid. Accordingly it is clear that carbonic acid may be present in the filtrate of the admitted prior art process after the pH adjustment. However applicant's claims require "adjusting the pH of the filtrate to 9-12 while simultaneously adding carbon dioxide and/or an aqueous carbonic acid solution, or else adjusting the pH to 9-12 after adding carbon dioxide and/or an aqueous carbonic acid solution" (emphasis added). There would be no motivation from the prior art to modify applicant's admitted prior art process by adjusting the pH of the filtrate to 9-12 while simultaneously adding carbon dioxide and/or an aqueous carbonic acid solution, or else adjusting the pH to 9-12 after adding carbon dioxide and/or an

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aqueous carbonic acid solution, as required by applicant's claims. The release of carbonic acid from the trace amount of ammonium carbonate after pH adjustment in the admitted prior art process would not suggest or provide motivation for such step.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wayne A. Langel whose telephone number is (571) 272-1353. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman, can be reached on (571) 272-1358. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-0994.

WAL:cdc
January 29, 2004

Wayne A. Langel
WAYNE A. LANGEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER